

Lily

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

REPORT
ON THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR

1955



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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

Mayor

Alderman W.P. Drew, J.P.

Deputy Mayor

Alderman H.S. Walker.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

Alderman E.W.L. Tye.

Alderman E.A. Heynes, J.P.	Councillor J.C. Mason.
Councillor E.J. Broughton, J.P.C.C.	Councillor G.H. Parkes.
Councillor F.H. Cox.	Councillor J. Thompson.
Councillor J.L. Guest.	Councillor W.H. Weston.
Councillor G.C.P. Lycett.	Councillor J.H. Wooldridge, C.C.

...

Medical Officer of Health

R.L. Corlett, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

A.M. Nelson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts

★ A.E.K. Kent, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector

★ J.W. Billingham, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

★ G.H. Stone, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

★ E.H. Wakefield, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned 30/11/55)

...

Clerical Staff

A. Powell (Chief Clerk)

Miss A.J. Tonks.

E.N. James (Resigned 1/6/55)

M.A. Cobourne (On National Service as from 5/6/55).

...

Rodent Operative

G.H. Corbett.

...

★ Certificated Meat and Food Inspectors.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1955

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
The Borough of Stourbridge.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1955.

The general health of the Borough was satisfactorily maintained during the year.

Deaths numbered 451, an increase of 31 over the previous year, giving a death rate of 11.7 per thousand, which corresponds with that for England and Wales.

Heart disease accounted for most of the increase in mortality, with 151 deaths against 128. This may not have any particular significance in these days of an ageing population but it is difficult not to conclude that the restlessness of modern society may well be an influential factor.

Cancer is still one of the chief causes of death. There was an increase of 13 deaths on last year's total of 77, and lung cancer was responsible for 20 deaths, 17 of which related to males. Recent medical statistics tend to suggest that excessive cigarette smoking is possibly linked with the higher incidence of lung cancer throughout the country, and certainly in our case mortality from this cause has increased since 1950 when there were eleven deaths, eight of which concerned males.

There was a decline in mortality from the respiratory diseases Influenza, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, which caused 39 deaths as against 44.

The incidence of infectious disease during the year followed a more or less normal pattern, except for an unusually high prevalence of Measles (in common with the rest of the Country), of which there were 944 cases notified, with one death. Scarlet Fever cases declined from 54 to 22, and Whooping Cough from 132 to 85, and no death resulted from either of these two infections.

There was one case of Poliomyelitis affecting a boy of 5 years. Apart from some weakness in his right leg, he made a good recovery.

Diphtheria incidence was completely absent, and again I wish to pay tribute to the effective propaganda efforts of the Health Visitors and those of Dr. Nelson, for the satisfactory level of immunisation during the year. I strongly appeal for the co-operation of parents in helping to maintain this immunity and not to let their unimmunised children remain at risk in contracting this dread disease with results which may prove fatal.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee I tender my thanks for their help and consideration, and also to Dr. Nelson, Mr. Kent, and the staff for their ready co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R.L. CORLETT

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.Statistics and Social Conditions

			<u>Acres</u>
The Area of the Borough is	...	...	4,214
viz: Stourbridge	...	...	1,920
Lye and Wollescote	...	...	1,025
Pedmore	...	...	1,269
Total Population, estimated at middle of 1955		...	38,320
Number of Inhabited houses, 1931	...	...	8,164
Number of Inhabited houses at end of 1955	...	...	12,408
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931		...	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1955		...	not available
Rateable Value	...	...	£228,451
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£850

Statistical Memorandum

Population, estimated mid-year 1955	...	...	38,320
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			14.5
Death Rate per 1,000	"	"	11.7
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...		25.1
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	...		0.156

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial, and the chief industries are hollow-ware and iron-founding, engineering, manufacture of forgings, spades and shovels, chains, vices, fireclay products, skin rugs, chamois leather and gloves.

Extracts from Vital Statistics
for the YearBIRTHSLive Births

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	279	261	540
Illegitimate	...	6	10	16
	Totals	285	271	556

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	14.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	15.0

Still Births

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	3	4	7
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-
	Totals	3	4	7

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	...	14.6
--	-----	------

DEATHS

Males	...	244
Females	...	207
	Total	451

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	11.7
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	11.7

Maternal Deaths

Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil

The Maternal Mortality Rates (per 1,000 total live and still Births) for England and Wales were:-

Maternal causes, excluding abortion	..	0.54
Due to abortion	..	0.10
Total Maternal Mortality	..	0.64

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ..	8	5	13
Illegitimate ..	-	1	1
Totals	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of Age

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ..	7	4	11
Illegitimate ..	-	1	1
Totals	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live Births .. 25.1

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 24.9 per 1,000 Live Births.

Causes of Death

		M.	F.
1. Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	6	-
2. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	..	-	1
3. Syphilitic Diseases	..	1	-
4. Diphtheria .. ..	..	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .. ..	..	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	..	1	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	..	-	-
8. Measles .. ..	..	1	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	2	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	..	11	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	17	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	..	-	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	..	-	5
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	..	23	17
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. ..	..	-	1
16. Diabetes .. ..	..	1	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	35	24
18. Coronary disease, angina	..	36	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	8	10
20. Other heart disease .. ..	..	25	47
21. Other circulatory disease ..	..	9	5
22. Influenza .. ..	..	3	4
23. Pneumonia .. ..	..	3	7
24. Bronchitis .. ..	..	15	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	..	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	..	1	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	..	-	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	..	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	..	4	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	..	-	-
31. Congenital malformations ..	..	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	23	22
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	..	2	1
34. All other accidents .. ..	..	6	4
35. Suicide .. ..	..	9	2
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	..	-	1
Totals		<u>244</u>	<u>207</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..		90	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..		1	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) -			

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers

Particulars of the Public Health Officers, together with information as to their qualifications, are set out on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities

Examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs &c.) is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, as are also consumer samples of milk, water and ice-cream. Producer samples of milk and water are examined bacteriologically by the County Laboratory, Worcester, in addition to all chemical samples of food, drugs and water.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

There are four Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough as follows:-

40, New Road, Stourbridge; St. Michael's Church Hall, Glebe Lane, Norton; Community Centre, Wassell Road, Wollescote; and Orchard Lane Lye.

Prevention of Diphtheria

Diphtheria Immunisation sessions were held monthly during the year at the Infant Welfare Centres, as under:

Stourbridge ..	Third Friday in the month (10 a.m. - 12 noon)
Lye ..	Third Thursday in the month (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)
Wollescote ..	First Thursday in the month (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

.....

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The water supply to the area of the Borough of Stourbridge is controlled by the Stourbridge & District Water Board. The Board was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1909 and is composed of twelve members nominated by the Borough of Stourbridge and the Urban District Councils of Amblecote and Brierley Hill. It operates three pumping stations, two of which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote and the third in Brierley Hill Urban District.

At each of the pumping stations there are two boreholes. These are tube-protected for part of their full depth and generally penetrate into the upper Bunter Sandstone. The whole of the supply is pumped into two well-defined areas of supply, the high level and the low level.

The high level area, the consumption of which is between 400,000 and 500,000 gallons per day is normally supplied by the Coalbournbrook Pumping Station, and a standby is available at the Mill Meadow Pumping Station. New pumping plant has been recently commissioned, which now enables the supply considerably in excess of the present requirements to be available immediately. Both the pumping stations are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, and a balance tank covering the high level area of supply is situated at Wychbury Hill in the Rural District of Bromsgrove. The capacity of this tank is 350,000 gallons.

It is in the low level area of supply that the major part of the Borough of Stourbridge is situated, and the consumption in this area is now in the region of 1.9 million gallons per day. The whole of this supply is normally provided from the Tack Lane Pumping Station situated in the parish of Wordsley in the Urban District of Brierley Hill. This station has been equipped to provide this supply in quantity since 1948, and duplicate pumping plant has been installed subsequently.

During the last year, a new 12" pumping main has been provided for the high level system between the pumping station at Coalbournbrook and existing installations near the Mill Meadow Station. Also important diesel electric generating plant has been completed at the Coalbournbrook Station. This addition to the resources of the Board completes an important standby arrangement for emergency use against electricity grid failure.

Drainage and Sewerage

The main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of Stourbridge Main Drainage Board. The sewers in Lye and Wollescote area are under the control of the Upper Stour Valley ^{Main} Sewerage Board.

The sewage is conveyed to the Whittington sewage farms belonging to these Boards and is treated on the Broad Irrigation principle.

SECTION D

Housing work is referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E Inspection and Supervision of Food

Details of the inspections carried out during the year will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

Small Pox

No case was reported during the year.

Typhoid Fever

There was no incidence.

Poliomyelitis

One case was notified in September, which related to a boy of 5 years of age.

Apart from some weakness in his right leg, he made a good recovery.

Scarlet Fever

There was a decline in the number of cases notified, of which there were 22 compared with 54.

Generally the incidence was of a mild type and there was no death.

Measles

There was an unusually high prevalence of Measles, of which there were 944 notifications, compared with four only in the previous year.

The high incidence was in common with the rest of the country, and in the Borough reached its peak in April when 412 cases were notified. There was one death.

Food Poisoning

There was an increase in notifications - from six to twelve. Three cases were in one household and in another there were two, the others being single cases.

Despite immediate investigations, in no case could the causative agent be definitely established. Faggots and gravy bought outside the Borough were suspected to be the source of infection in two cases, and a pork pie in three others.

Mass Radiography Survey

Following on their first visit to the Borough in March, 1954 (when a total of 5,295 persons - 2,748 males and 2,547 females - were x-rayed) the Dudley Mass Radiography Unit (Medical Director - Dr. R.J. Posner) paid a second visit in October, 1955, when a total of 2,673 persons (1,241 males and 1,432 females) were examined.

Diphtheria Immunisation

There was again a satisfactory level of immunisation, both primary and secondary, during the year.

Primary treatments numbered 492, of which 458 related to children of pre-school age.

Some 516 children were given re-inforcing injections.

Diphtheria Immunisation (continued)

The record of primary immunisation in the Borough since 1935 is as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>A.P.T.</u> <u>2 inj.</u>	<u>T.A.M.</u> <u>3 inj.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1935	..	-	3
1936	..	-	-
1937	..	247	293
1938	..	201	224
1939	..	61	96
1940	..	-	112
1941	..	65	1462
1942	..	17	1823
1943	..	563	634
1944	..	507	507
1945	..	671	671
1946	..	536	536
1947	..	640	640
1948	..	580	580
1949	..	603	603
1950	..	317	317
1951	..	597	597
1952	..	470	470
1953	..	521	521
1954	..	560	560
1955	..	492	492
	Totals	<u>7648</u>	<u>3,493</u>
			<u>11,141</u>

Of an estimated child population of 8,350, a total of 7,209 children under 15 years of age had been immunised by the end of the year. Of this total, 1,799 related to children of pre-school age.

It is estimated that approximately 95% of school children and 65% of pre-school age children have been completely immunised.

Table showing the Incidence and Severity of Diphtheria

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Case Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Immunised Cases</u>	<u>Children Deaths</u>
1935	110	18	16.3	3	-
1936	33	5	15.1	3	-
1937	81	3	3.7	6	-
1938	49	2	4.08	6	-
1939	40	7	17.5	11	-
1940	71	2	2.81	9	-
1941	87	5	5.74	8	-
1942	21	-	-	2	-
1943	18	1	5.5	5	-
1944	25	2	8.0	9	-
1945	47	3	6.38	11	-
1946	21	1	4.76	7	-
1947	30	2	6.66	11	1
1948	-	-	-	-	-
1949	-	-	-	-	-
1950	1	-	-	1	-
1951	-	-	-	-	-
1952	-	-	-	-	-
1953	-	-	-	-	-
1954	1	-	-	-	-
1955	<u>635</u>	<u>51</u>		<u>92</u>	<u>1</u>

DISEASE	AGES						Total No. of Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	DEATHS
	Under 1 year	1.- 2	3 - 4	5 -	10 -	15-24			
Scarlet Fever	1	2	2	14	3	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	16	10	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	-	-	4	1	6	1	10
Whooping Cough	7	20	24	32	1	1	-	85	-
Measles	23	200	259	452	5	3	2	-	13
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	1
Dysentery	-	1	1	9	1	1	1	17	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	-	3	-	2	2	3	2
TOTALS	37	225	287	517	11	21	4	20	17
								1160	39
									12

NOTE: 38 of the 39 hospital cases were admitted to Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1955

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-
10	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	4	-	-	-	-
20	2	1	-	-	1	-
25	3	3	-	-	-	-
35	3	1	-	-	1	-
45	3	-	-	1	1	-
55	4	-	1	-	3	-
65 and upwards			2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS		20	9	1	1	6	-	1

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.156 per 1,000 population which is the same as last year.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE
REGISTER AT END OF 1955

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1955	122	66	7	10
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations ...	20	9	1	1
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification ...	1	4	-	3
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter ...	2	-	1	-
TOTALS	145	79	9	14
No. of cases removed from Register during the year ...	18	5	2	5
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year	127	74	7	9

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1955

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Stourbridge.

Mr. Mayor and Gentleman,

I have the honour to present to you a Report on the work of your Public Health Department for the year 1955.

A notable feature of the work during the year was the draft proposals submitted under the Slum Clearance programme, affecting some 300 or more unfit houses, which it is hoped to clear in the Five-Year period ending 1960.

The year saw the introduction of new Regulations relating to Food Hygiene and affecting the hygienic handling of Food and the structural condition of Food Premises. These involve many new obligations and add to the Department's responsibilities.

Unfortunately towards the end of the year, the Department's staff of Inspectors was depleted by the loss of the services of Mr. Wakefield, who left the Borough Council's employ to take up a similar appointment at Poole.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their active interest, to Dr. Corlett for his helpful advice at all times, and to the Town Clerk, Mr. A.P. Drury, M.A., for his unfailing assistance, not forgetting the willing co-operation of the Departmental staff and other Officers of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentleman,

Your Obedient Servant,

A.E.K. KENT

Sanitary Inspector.

COMPLAINTS

A total of 250 complaints, relating principally to housing defects, were received during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following data is given in accordance with Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

The number and nature of Inspections made during the year:

Inspections of houses	348
Re-inspections and re-visits	1151
Inspections under Housing Regulations	71
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations	28
Inspections Town & Country Planning Act -	
Re-development	185
Visits re notifiable diseases	103
Slaughter of pigs on private premises	13
Meat Inspection:	
Cattle	1465
Pigs	5623
Sheep	8543
Dairies	41
Factories	25
Smoke &c. nuisances	103
Bakehouses	116
Food Stores & Food Preparation Premises	149
Shops Act	48
Shops (re Unfit Food)	109
Vermin Infestation (excluding Rats & Mice) ..	23
Rats & Mice	223
Water Supplies	31
Drainage	170
Tuberculosis After-Care	46
Waste Water Closets	19
Tents, Vans, Sheds &c.	29
Refuse Tips	114
Pet Animals Act	9
Rag Flock Act	4
Licensed Premises	9
Miscellaneous	151

Number of Notices served during the year:

Preliminary Notices	115
Statutory Notices	132

PRELIMINARY NOTICES

Preliminary Intimation Notices sent during the year numbered 115. These, in general, took the form of letters giving particulars of defects and suggestions as to repairs necessary to remedy the defects.

	<u>No. of Notices</u>	<u>No. of Houses or premises affected</u>
General defects of houses	53	75
Defective water closets	8	12
Defective drainage	21	44
Factories - smoke &c. nuisances	3	3
Factories - ventilation	1	1
Insufficient w.c. accommodation	2	2
Food & Drugs Act contraventions	7	7
Dirty & untidy houses	1	1
Shops Act, 1950	10	10
Miscellaneous	9	15
Totals	<u>115</u>	<u>170</u>

STATUTORY NOTICES, 1955

Public Health Act, 1936

		<u>No. of Notices</u>	<u>No. of Premises Affected</u>
Abatement of Nuisances (S.93)		13	13
Requisition for Information (S.277)		3	3
Drainage (S.39) ..	..	3	4
Defective Closets (S.45) ..	..	1	1
Sewers (S.24) ..	..	5	5
Notices to Cleanse (S.83) ..	..	2	1
Access to Premises (S.287)	..	1	1

Housing Act, 1936

Notices to Appear before Council (S.12)		1	1
Notices to Appear before Council (S.11)		39	27
Demolition Orders (S.11)	..	28	15
Notice to Quit (S.155)	..	2	2
Requisition for Information (S.168)	..	9	15
Repairs (S.9) ..	..	1	1
Closing Orders (S.12) ..	..	9	5
Closing Orders (S.10) - Misc.			
Provisions Act, 1953)	..	2	2

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954

Section 6	..	..	2	2
Disrepair certificates	..	..	8	8
Revocation certificates	..	..	3	5

Totals 132 111

Result of the service of Notices:

Preliminary Notices complied with .. 82

Statutory Notices complied with .. 115

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 348

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1151

(ii) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 .. 6

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 13

Housing (Continued)

(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	15
(iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	163
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:			
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	..	..	51
3. Action under statutory Powers during the year:			
(A) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:			
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	..	..	3
(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	..	..
(a) By Owners	..	..	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	-
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:			
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	96
(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:			
(a) By Owners	..	..	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	-
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:			
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	..	15
(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	..	..	21
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Section 10 Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1953:			
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	..	7
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	..	..	-

During the year, 150 cases of overcrowding were relieved.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

One application was received for a certificate of Disrepair which was not granted.

Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants

Some 26 applications for Improvement grants were received, 23 of which were approved and 3 rejected.

DEMOLITION ORDERS

Fifteen Demolition Orders were made during the year in respect of the following houses, all of which were in a state of disrepair bordering on the dangerous:-

No. 13, Stourbridge Road, Lye
No. 109, Stourbridge Road, Lye
No. 3, Swan Fold, Lye
No. 4, Swan Fold, Lye
No. 7, Swan Fold, Lye
No. 8, Swan Fold, Lye
No. 21, Waste Bank, Lye
No. 55, The Dock, Lye
No. 24, Belmont Road, Wollescote
No. 27, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge
No. 29, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge
No. 31, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge
No. 33, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge
No. 35, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge
No. 57, Mount Street, Stourbridge.

CLOSING ORDERS

Under the provisions of Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1933 Closing Orders were made on the following properties:-

No. 78, Cemetery Road, Lye
No. 45, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge
No. 53, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge
No. 10, Duke Street, Stourbridge
No. 12, Duke Street, Stourbridge
No. 142, Hagley Road, Stourbridge
No. 109, High Street, Wollaston.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

One hundred and ninety three complaints of rats and mice infestation were received, compared with 189 in 1954.

A summary of the work carried out by the Rodent Operative during the year is set out below.

Type of Property	No. of Premises Infested	No. of Treatments	No. of Inspections	Infested by Rats	Infested by Mice
Local Authority	7	9	38	7	-
Dwelling Houses	222	229	512	169	53
Business & Industrial Premises &c.	37	43	78	23	14
Agricultural Premises	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>266</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>628</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>67</u>

The sewers were also treated twice during the year and a total of 213 manholes dealt with.

It is estimated that throughout the Borough approximately 1,780 rats and 1,270 mice were killed.

Premises used for:

(a) Sale and/or Manufacture of Ice Cream

Eleven new premises were registered during the year for the sale of Ice Cream in sealed cartons. At the end of the year there were 146 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and 4 for its manufacture and sale.

Thirty samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The fat content varied between 8.6% and 13.7% and in most of the samples the fat content exceeded 10%.

All the 20 bacteriological samples submitted were in provisional grade 1.

(b) Preparation of Preserved Foods

There were 3 new registrations during the year for the preparation or manufacture of Preserved Food. At the end of the year, there were 23 premises on the Register.

All the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Fish Frying

Twenty premises are registered for fish frying.

ADULTERATION

One hundred informal samples were submitted for chemical analysis as follows:-

		No. of Samples		No. of Samples
Milk (T.T.)	..	1	Sausages	..
Milk (Pasteurised)	..	8	Minced Beef	..
Milk (T.T. Pasteurised)		1	Minced Chicken	
Milk (Sterilised)	..	1	Curried Beef Steak	
Milk (Raw)	..	3	Braised Beef Steak	
Cream Ices	..	3	Steak & Kidney Pie	
Ice Cream	..	7	Meat Pie	..
Double Cream	..	3	Pork Pies	..
Butter	..	4	Welsh Rarebit	..
Ice Lollies	..	3	Meat Tenderizer	
Ice Cream Lollies	..	3	Yeast Pac	..
Butter Fudge	..	1	Pepper	..
Vitacup		1	Baked Beans with pork sausage	
Coconut whipped cream dainties		3	Rice	..
Scotch Sweets	..	3	Cider Vinegar	..
Nougat Dainties	..	1	Cold & 'Flu mixture	
Marzipan	..	1	Halibut Liver Oil capsules	
Ground Almonds	..	1	Plurivite Vitamin pellets	
Macaroni	..	1	Orange Drink	..
Scotch Haddock	..	1	Abidec Drops	..
Sweet Matches	..	3		

The Public Analyst's report on the sample of Coconut Whipped Cream Dainties stated that:

"The white filling of this article contained at most some 4% of fat and is more of the nature of a marshmallow.

In my opinion the term 'whipped cream' implies the presence of dairy cream and is wrongly applied in this case."

As the term "whipped cream" might tend to mislead the public into the belief that the cakes contained real cream, the matter was taken up with the manufacturers with a view to the product being given a more satisfactory name.

The sample of "Scotch Haddock" was found on examination to be otherwise than haddock and was, in the Analyst's opinion, probably cured codling. The matter was taken up with the vendor.

Two samples of pork sausages were found to be deficient in meat content, and the attention of the suppliers concerned was drawn to the matter.

The analysis of Ice Cream Lollies showed a lead content of 0.7 parts per million. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers and follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

BACTERIAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

74 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination as under:-

<u>Type of Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Tests Applied</u>	<u>Results of Tests</u>	
			<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	16	Methylene Blue	15	-
Pasteurised	41	Phosphatase	16	-
Sterilised	9	Methylene Blue	34	-
Tuberculin Tested	3	Phosphatase	41	-
Channel Island Past.	5	Turbidity Test	9	-
		Methylene Blue	3	-
		Phosphatase	5	-
			5	-

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.
The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

The following licences were in operation at the end of 1955:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "tuberculin tested" (including three bottling establishments)	..	13
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "tuberculin tested"	..	4

Pasteurised Milk

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence authorising the holder to pasteurise milk	..	..	..	..	3
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised"	..	..	..	..	13
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised"	..	..	..	..	5

Sterilised Milk

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "sterilised"	..	..	..	..	92
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "sterilised"	..	..	..	..	6

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

During the year Meat Inspection continued to take up most of the time of two Inspectors, this being a service demanding not only thorough knowledge of animal pathology and meat hygiene but also infinite care and attention at all times.

The same slaughterhouses have continued to operate and all have been kept in the very excellent condition which was reported last year.

Much overtime is still having to be carried out, but fortunately no Sunday work is now necessary.

Set out below are the number of animals slaughtered during the year, and it is pleasing to note that 100% inspection has again been carried out. Table 1 shows the number of animals killed and inspected, together with the number of carcases condemned and the percentage of animals affected with disease. Table 2 shows the amount of meat condemned and the diseases or conditions which merited the condemnation.

It is pleasing to note that Tuberculosis in pigs has declined very greatly since pre-war days, but Cysticercus Bovis - which has come to the forefront since 1940 - has not only caused new methods of inspection of Cattle to be adopted but the number of cases found is causing some concern not only to Meat Inspectors but to the trade in general.

Our figure of 23 cases of Cysticercus Bovis made it apparent that the disease is now becoming very widespread. Great efforts have been made to try to find the cause in each case, all lot numbers being checked with Auctioneers and the vendors ascertained. Eventually this information, together with all relative details of the actual beast, is transmitted to the Local Authority in whose area the beast originated. Unfortunately, the information was not forthcoming as to what action was or had been taken. But we cannot blame our Rural colleagues, who, with their numerous slaughterhouses and long distances to cover, have all their other multifarious duties to carry out.

During the year the following animals were killed:-

<u>Cattle (excluding cows)</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
1409	39	17	8543	5623

In addition 13 pigs were slaughtered on private premises and all were inspected.

TABLE 1

Appendix
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1409	39	17	8543	5623	Nil
Number inspected	1409	39	17	8543	5623	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	3	4	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	291	16	-	708	638	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	20.6%	41%	6%	8%	11%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	2	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	71	8	-	-	-	162
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5%	20%	-	-	-	3%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	-	-	4	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	23	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Diseases	Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other parts
Actinomycosis	8	4	55	3	24	7	3	8	6 forequarters (94.8 lb.) 2 udders & flanks (43 lb.)
Actinobacillosis	4	51	17	5	23	17	1	1	
Tuberculosis	2								
Pneumonia									
Pericarditis									
Hydatid cysts									
Fascioliasis									
Bacterial necrosis									
Cavernous angioma									
Peritonitis									
Pyaemia									
Nephritis									
Hydronephrosis									
Abscesses									
Bruising									
Fat necrosis									
Cysticercus Bovis									
Pleurisy									
Regurgitation									
Fatty Infiltration									
Enteritis									
TOTALS	3	72	101	27	278	17	19	24	34

Table 2

Diseases	Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Stomachs	Spleens	Intestines	Other Parts
Trichinellosis			421					
Pneumonia &c.			14	2				
Pericarditis				5	1	5		
Hydatid Cysts			5					
Ascioliasis	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Bacterial Necrosis					1			
Fatty Infiltration						1		
Barcosporidia					4			
Abscesses						2		
Bruising							28	
Died in lairage				1				
Angioma						1		
Fyaemia							4	
Cysticercus bovis							5	
Sarcocystis Tenella								2
TOTALS	3	2	442	23	570	4	2	

Diseases	Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Other parts
Tuberculosis	2	156	19	12	16	1	2	6	49 lb , 2 Flanks.
Pneumonia			345						
Pericarditis			1						
Congestion			102						
Cirrhosis			233						
Fatty Infiltration			1						
Leukocemia				2					
Ascarides				1					
Enteritis				10					
Peritonitis					10				
Hydronephrosis					15				
Bruising						9			
Pyaemia						38			
Swine Erysipelas							1		
Arthritis							1		
Fractures								1	
Dead in lairage								1	
Dead in transit								1	
TOTALS	5	160	599	116	217	13	16	46	116

Meat and Other Food Inspection (continued)

109 visits to shops etc. were made in connection with the inspection of foodstuffs, and the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

<u>Canned Foods</u>			<u>No. of Tins</u>
Fish	...	...	27
Vegetables	...	...	257
Fruit	...	...	315
Fruit Juice	...	...	5
Jam	...	...	3
Milk	...	...	58
Cream	...	...	9
Golden Syrup	...	...	3
Tomatoes	...	...	32
Meat	...	...	75 (223 lb.)
Soup	...	...	6
Crab Paste	...	...	2
Chicken Spread	...	...	3
Pate de Foie	...	...	9

<u>Other Foods</u>			<u>Quantity</u>
Coffee	...	...	4 botts.
Orange Barley Water	...	...	1 "
Tomato Ketchup	...	...	4 "
Vinegar	...	...	6 "
Currants	...	...	5 pkts.
Sponge Mixture	...	...	7 "
Marmite	...	...	1 jar
Bovril	...	...	2 "
Chicken Spread	...	...	4 "
Dressed Crab	...	...	5 "
Tongue Paste	...	...	20 "
Veal & Ham Paste	...	...	5 "
Chicken Paste	...	...	2 "
Fish Paste	...	...	5 "
Sauce	...	...	7 botts.
Lemon Squash	...	...	7 "
Horseradish Relish	...	...	1 "
Salad Cream	...	...	1 "
Pickles	...	...	5 "
Lemon Curd	...	...	2 "
Marmalade	...	...	10 jars
Jam	...	...	28 "
Mincemeat	...	...	5 "
Prunes	...	...	30 lb.
Prawn	...	...	66 "
Pork Sausages	...	...	52 "
Turkeys (12)	...	...	96 "
Frozen Liquid Whole Eggs	...	...	28 "
Slab Cakes	...	...	18 "
Bream Fillets	...	...	2 stone
Lemon Sole	...	...	2 "
Kippers	...	...	4 "
Plaice	...	...	1 "
Hake	...	...	2 "
Megrims	...	...	9½ "
Lambs' Livers (Imported)	...	...	10 lb.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 to 1954

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 to 1954, 22 licences were renewed during the year.

WATER SAMPLING

Public Supplies

The reports on the public supplies were again excellent. Bacteriological counts were very low, whilst chemical examinations have been constant.

The supplies were equally satisfactory as to quantity. They are not liable to plumbo solvency but samples are examined periodically for lead contamination.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from the Mains direct to houses in the Borough was 12,395. The number of standpipes is gradually being reduced.

The following are results of the chemical examination of representative samples of the Town's Water Supply taken during the year:-

Physical Characters	<u>LOW LEVEL</u>		<u>HIGH LEVEL</u>
	No. 1	10 May, 1955	No. 2
Clear, odourless			Clear, odourless
Deposit None			Deposit Brown
		pH 7.3	pH 7.4
Chemical examination (results in parts per million)			
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C)	Nil		Trace
Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C)	325		620
Solids in Solution after ignition	300		565
Chlorine Expressed as Chloride	31		62
Hardness Non-carbonate	80		170
Hardness Carbonate	145		205
Hardness Total	225		375
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01		0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace		0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	6.6		14.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil		Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate)	0.15		Nil
Toxic Metals	None detected		None detected
Residual Chlorine Free	Nil		Nil
" " Combined	Nil		Nil
" " Total	0.09		0.02

Some 92 samples were submitted by this Department for bacteriological analysis, and the following are representative of the results received:-

		Number of Coliform bacilli, MacConkey two days, 37°C. (per 100 ml.)	Faecal Coli (per 100 ml.)
January 24th	..	Nil	Nil
February 19th	..	Nil	Nil
March 24th	..	Nil	Nil
April 21st	..	Nil	Nil
May 19th	..	Nil	Nil
June 16th	..	Nil	Nil
July 13th	..	Nil	Nil
August 18th	..	Nil	Nil
September 15th	..	Nil	Nil
October 13th	..	Nil	Nil
November 17th	..	Nil	Nil
December 15th	..	Nil	Nil

MILK SUPPLIES

Two samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination and both proved to be negative.

FOOD PREMISES.

The Inspector who was primarily engaged on Hygiene in Food Shops left the Borough Council's employ in November, 1955, and since that date very little has been done in this vitally important sphere. Several attempts have been made to appoint another Inspector but up to the time of writing with no success.

Up to November many improvements had been carried out, due to the activities of the specialist Inspector, and it is to be hoped that traders in general will continue to co-operate willingly to ensure that these improvements are maintained.

Five summonses were issued against occupiers of two Food Shops in the Borough. One was issued in respect of one shop where it was alleged that a cellar was being used for preparing food, i.e. boiling three beef tongues and that the cellar was filthy. The defendant successfully pleaded that the beef tongues were the property of the Manager and that they were for a private party at his house.

The other four summonses were in respect of one shop in the Borough and a fine was inflicted on each of the following counts:-

- (1) Allowing refuse to accumulate in a Food room .. Fine £20.
- (2) Using premises for pickling food, not being registered .. Fine £5.
- (3) Failure to cleanse floor of food room as often as necessary .. Fine £10.
- (4) Failure to protect meat from flies .. Fine £5.

It must be said that these odd prosecutions do have a salutary effect and immediate improvements in other food shops are most noticeable.

VERMIN INFESTATION

Effective disinfestations were carried out at 23 premises to eradicate bugs, fleas and other vermin. In 7 other cases relating to insect pests insecticides were issued and advice given.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

No formal action was necessary under this heading.

Seven persons were granted licences to station and use moveable dwellings for short periods on various sites in the Borough. Where the sites remained satisfactory, the licences were renewed for further periods.

During the year, 29 inspections were made of caravans and sites, all of which were kept in excellent condition.

OUTWORKERS

Twenty-two lists were received, containing the names of 23 outworkers, 10 of whom resided outside the Borough.

The premises of outworkers resident in the Borough are satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Four renewal licences were granted.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two licences under this heading were renewed.

SWIMMING BATHS

A total of 116 (45 chemical and 71 bacteriological) samples of water from the Corporation Swimming Baths were submitted for examination and the results showed that a high standard was maintained throughout the season. The Baths Superintendent and his staff are again to be congratulated on the excellent condition of the whole buildings generally and the very high standard of cleanliness maintained.

RIVERS POLLUTION

There was close liaison between the Department and the Rivers Board, to whom the powers under the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951 were transferred.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The apparatus for measuring atmospheric pollution is still in operation and recordings are kept.

During the year the only consistent offender in the Borough decided to convert the furnaces to oil-firing, giving a more rigid control and a more easily adjusted output. At the end of the year, the two furnaces which were converted were giving no trouble.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Public Cleansing is under the control of the Borough Surveyor.

There are four tips in the Borough, and refuse disposal is carried out by controlled tipping mainly at Lye, with reserve Tips at Wollaston and Lye in case of emergency. Covering material is readily available and no fires have occurred. Systematic treatment with Gammexane Dust has kept cricket infestation down to practically nil.

Refuse is collected weekly. All vehicles used in the collection are "S.D." freighters, with the addition of a small Scammell used for market and shop collections.

TUBERCULOSIS AFTER-CARE COMMITTEE

In the course of the year 7 families were re-housed in Council houses, and issues of free milk were made to 38 patients. Christmas food parcels were also provided in addition to warm underclothing to specially deserving cases.

The Committee, of which I am still Honorary Secretary, met once during the year, and has amongst its members representatives from the Borough Council, the County Medical Officer's Department, W.V.S., the Nursing Association and your Public Health Department.

I am grateful to the Committee members for the invaluable help they have given me and to the members of the Housing Lettings Committee of the Council for their promptness in dealing with cases brought to their notice through Mr. Baylis, the Housing Officer.

PETROLEUM ACTS

During the year 82 licences were issued as follows:-

62	to store petroleum spirit only
10	" " petroleum spirit and cellulose
3	" " petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium
3	" " carbide of calcium only
2	" " cellulose only
2	" " mixture of petroleum spirit.

These licences authorised the storage of 77,700 gallons of petroleum spirit 2,548 lbs. carbide of calcium, 1,075 gallons of cellulose and 14 gallons of petroleum mixture.

The sum of £53. 15. 0. was received in respect of licence fees.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	42	7	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	232	18	9	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	274	25	9	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspec- tator (5)	By H.M. Inspec- tator (6)	
(1) Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	6	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	9	9	-	9	-

